

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

30 JAN 1964

Honorable John A. McCone
Director, Central Intelligence
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear John:

We have made substantial progress in the past year in refining our estimates of Soviet general purpose forces. I have been particularly pleased with the joint effort in this field by CIA and DIA which was reflected most recently in the new estimate, NIE 11-14-63, "Capabilities of the Soviet General Purpose Forces, 1963-1969." I would appreciate your passing on my thanks to those persons responsible for this work.

I believe that this new estimate gives us a much sounder basis for our own planning and for planning within NATO. But along with a better picture of the true general purpose force strengths of the USSR, the estimate does reveal limits to our knowledge. I am optimistic that further progress can be made toward definitive calculation of the strengths and weaknesses of the Soviets. I will be interested in seeing the results of your follow-on studies of costing, equipment production and inventory, and tables of organization and equipment.

I have sent a similar communication to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Sincerely,

BR

OSD REVIEW COMPLETED

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE)

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

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APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
COMMENT	FILE	RETURN
CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE

Remarks:

✓ Recommendation approved by DCI.

A copy of this has gone to General Carter. No other distribution has been made. Recommend you approve sending a copy to Sherman Kent and one to Jimmy Lay to pass to USIB members.

H. Knoche

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FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.	DATE
E. H. Knoche	1/31/64

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Remarks: <p>For your decision.</p> <p>I presume this should go to ONE for info, but I am never sure whether or not there is also USIB interest.</p> <p><i>Sent to DCI recommending he approve dissem to ADINE and Exec. Secy USIB to pass to USIB members</i></p>					
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O/ExecDir/rita				30 Jan 64	